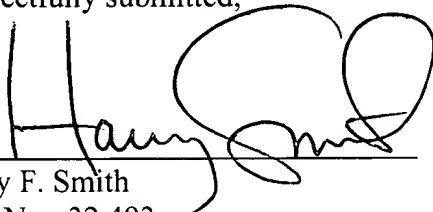


A method and system are disclosed for generating and using a virus-free file certificate. The method, for use in a virus-free certificate authority (102), includes the steps of: receiving (300) a virus-free certificate request for a file from a server (101) or a client (100) system; determining (301) whether the file is virus-free or not; if the file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102): generating (303, 304) a virus-free certificate (200) including a file signature (207) for certifying that said file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102); sending (306) back in response to the virus-free certificate request the virus-free certificate (200). The method, for use in a server (101) or client (100) system, includes the steps of: determining (400) whether a virus-free certificate (200) is associated with a file; if a virus-free certificate is associated with the file: authenticating (404) the virus-free certificate (200), said virus-free certificate including a certificate signature (206); authenticating (407) the file, said virus-free certificate (200) including a file signature (207), said file signature certifying that said file has been declared virus-free by a virus-free certificate authority (102).--

### REMARKS

The foregoing amendment removes the multiple dependencies from the European Application. The foregoing amendment also rewrites certain dependent claims into independent form. A favorable consideration that results in the early allowance of pending claims 1-17 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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